by DTS. Access to internet on local call basis from the nearest internet node has been provided throughout the country except in Andaman and Nicobar Island and Leh (J & K). The existing departmental Public Call Operators (PCO) and Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) booths are proposed to be upgraded to public tele-info/cyber centres. These centres will provide multi-utility services such as internet, e-mail access and internet libraries.

Signing of MOUs to Promote Information Technology

2982. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has signed Menorandum of Understanding (MOU) with some countries with a view to promote information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) yes, sir.

(b) and (c): The Ministery of Information Technology, Government of India have, so far, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Ezypt, Bulgaria, Ireland, Hong Kong and Singapore for bilateral co-operation in various areas of Information Technology and Electronics. These MOUs are expected to boost bilateral cooperation as well as bilateral trade in the areas of internet.

Setting up of HIT in Rajasthan

2983. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN PURRU): Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has established the first Indian Institute of Information Technology (IHT) at Allahabad on the Unes of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the second similar HIT has recently being opened at Gwalior at Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan has sent a request long back for opening such an Institutes in Rajasthan offering land free of cost alongwith other facilities;